

*join us at the table*  
creating community



**First Presbyterian Church**  
OF LAKE FOREST

**September 17, 2023**  
**9:30 AM**  
*Season of Pentecost*

*Sending well-equipped disciples of Jesus into the world—compassionate, generous, resilient, and wise*

## Prayer for Worship

Generous God and Giver of all things, we rest in your loving and tender care; and we are revived, restored and renewed by your strength and encouragement. You go before us in life, leading us in pathways that are secure without the confusion of becoming lost, aware only that we always need to follow you; and so we trust in your guidance and wisdom. Amen.

## Prelude

*Unity Hymn*

Mike Donehey

*Christ, come have mercy on us  
Come and mend what we separate  
We are divided over things  
That are not Your heart  
Spirit, come show us the way.  
O Hallelujah, Christ is with us  
In Him we live, and move, and breathe  
So with this breath inside our lungs now  
And forever we will sing.*

*Father, we come for forgiveness  
We have surrendered to fears of our day  
Turning brothers and sisters to enemies  
Jesus, we need Your grace.*

*Your love unites us, Lord  
Oh what can separate us from?*



Our Sanctuary sound system is equipped to broadcast directly to T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. If your hearing aid is so equipped, switch it into this mode. If you do not have this type of hearing aid, assistive listening devices are available from the ushers.

## The Welcome

*Jesus Christ and our faith community welcome you to worship today.*

*We are a community that prays for and with one another. If you wish, we invite you to fill out a Joys & Concerns card (in the pew rack) to share your prayer request.*

*If you are a visitor and would like us to get in touch with you, please provide your information on the back of the Joys & Concerns card. An usher will collect them later in the service.*

*During the service, you are invited to stand as you are able where an asterisk (\*) is printed, and speak or sing in unison all passages in bold.*

*Let us take a few moments of silence as we prepare our hearts to worship God.*

## Choral Introit

King of Glory, King of Peace

Text by George Herbert,  
Tune by David Charles Walker

*King of glory, King of peace, I will love Thee;  
and that love may never cease,  
I will move Thee.*

*Thou hast granted my request,  
Thou hast heard me;  
Thou didst note my working breast,  
Thou hast spared me.*

*Wherefore with my utmost art  
I will sing Thee,  
and the cream of all my heart  
I will bring Thee.*

*Though my sins against me cried,  
Thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied,  
Thou didst hear me.*

## \*Call to Worship

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

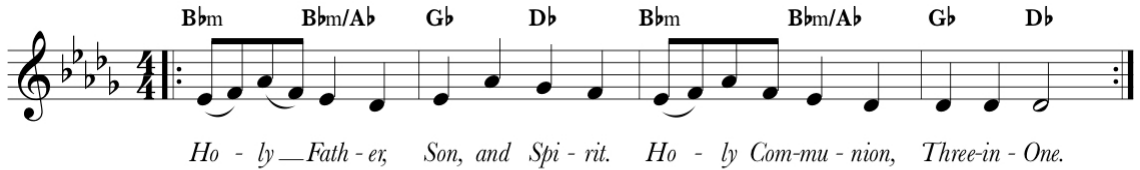
Leader: God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

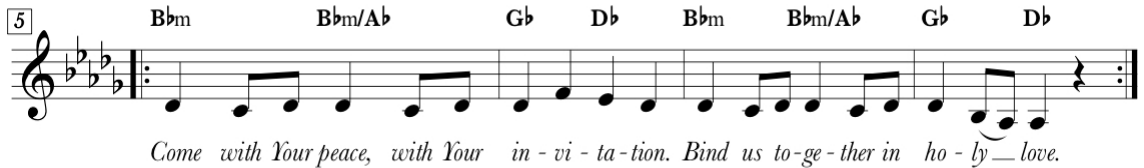
## \*Hymn of Praise

Trinity Song

Sandra McCracken



*Ho - ly — Fath - er, Son, and Spi - rit. Ho - ly Com - mu - nion, Three - in - One.*



*Come with Your peace, with Your in - vi - ta - tion. Bind us to - ge - ther in ho - ly — love.*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. There are times we cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. Sometimes we walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

### Assurance of Forgiveness

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. Amen.

## Word for Children

Following the Word for Children, Preschool through 7th graders may leave for their Sunday School Faith Building classes. After worship, please pick up your children from their classrooms on the 2nd floor (rooms 213, 214, 215, 219).

## **\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer.  
Amen.

## **First Scripture Reading**

Matthew 18:21-35

*(New Testament, page 20 in pew Bible)*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem**

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter,  
that he may 'bide with you forever;*

*E'en the spirit of truth.*

## **Second Scripture Reading**

Romans 14:1-12

*(New Testament, page 163 in pew Bible)*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

"Forgiveness: The Peril of the Christian Life"

Rev. Peter Smith

## **\*Hymn of Response NO. 300**

We Are One in the Spirit

TUNE: THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

## Invitation to the Offering



You may give online or fulfill your pledge by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone, or go to [firstchurchlf.org/give](http://firstchurchlf.org/give).  
Thank you for your generosity!

## Offertory

Prayer of St. Francis

Sarah Maclachlan

*Lord make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, pardon.  
Where there is doubt, faith.  
Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.  
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine master grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love  
For it is in giving that we receive-  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.*

## \*Doxology *(unison)*

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## \*Prayer of Dedication *(unison)*

**Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.**

## Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### \*Hymn of Sending NO. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

TUNE: IN BABILONE

### \*Charge and Benediction

#### \*Benediction Response

King of Glory, King of Peace

Text by George Herbert  
Tune by David Charles Walker

*Seven whole days, not one in seven,  
I will praise Thee;  
in my heart, though not in heaven,  
I can raise Thee.  
Small it is, in this poor sort  
to enroll Thee:  
e'en eternity's too short  
to extol Thee.*

### \*Postlude

Praeludium in D major, BuxWV 139

Dietrich Buxtehude

## This Week's Calendar

### TODAY

- 8:00 AM Music Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
9:00 Nursery open, Room 212  
9:30 Worship, Sanctuary  
Sunday School, Room 213, 214, 215, 219  
10:30 Fellowship, Great Room  
10:45 Worship Ensemble Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
5:00 PM Middle School Youth Group, Youth Lounge  
7:00 Senior High Youth Group, Youth Lounge

### MON

- 9:30 AM Rummage Sorting, Rummage Sorting Room  
7:00 PM Session Meeting, South Parlor/Zoom

### TUE

- 9:15 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group, Parish House  
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, South Parlor  
Adult Bible Study, Zoom  
5:30 Adult Faith Formation Cmte. Mtg., S. Parlor/Zoom  
7:00 Boy Scouts Troop Meeting, Fellowship Hall/Rm 012

### WED

- 10:00 AM Wednesday Women's Bible Study, S. Parlor/Zoom  
11:00 Resource Grp: Caregivers of Terminally Ill, Bride's Rm  
4:15 PM Carol Choir, Music Room  
5:00 Cherub Choir, Music Room  
Confirmation Class, Stuart Room 214  
5:30 Wednesday Night Supper, Great Room  
6:30 Offering of Music and Prayer, Sanctuary  
7:30 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

### THU

- 6:30 AM Daybreakers Men's Bible Study, Great Room/Zoom  
9:30 Rummage Sorting, Rummage Sorting Room  
10:00 Rummage Chairperson Meeting, Youth Lounge  
5:30 PM Lakeminster Ringers, Bell Room  
7:00 Chancel Bell Choir, Bell Room  
7:00 Mom's Small Group, Youth Lounge

### FRI

- 7:00 AM Men of Corinth Bible Study, South Parlor/Zoom



## Give

Give online or fulfill your pledge:  
scan the QR code  
or go to [FirstChurchLF.org/give](https://FirstChurchLF.org/give).

**Pastor on call:** Kristie Finley 847.942.4057

## Worship Participants

Rev. Kristie W. Finley  
Rev. Peter Smith  
Dr. Robert McConnell  
Jack Reeder  
Christina Maldonado  
Nathan Fivecoate  
Sanctuary Choir  
Worship Ensemble  
Georgia Sottosanto-Sorenson, AV Support  
Ryder Gamrath, AV Support

## Serve, Learn & Connect

For our weekly ministries and Zoom links  
[firstchurchlf.org/ministries](https://firstchurchlf.org/ministries)

### Share Joys & Concerns

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

### Home Communion

Kristie Finley 224.544.1967

### Arrange a Wedding or Baptism

Sarah Seccombe 224.544.1958

### Engagement & Membership

Diane Quinn [dianequinn@mac.com](mailto:dianequinn@mac.com)

### Mission

Stewart Kerr 224.544.1968

## Elders

Vail Bayly  
Paul Bergmann  
Donna Coffin  
Scott Crawford  
Paul Darling  
John Gescheidle  
Lynnette Hinch  
Elinor Hite  
John Johnson

Laura Johnson  
Sally McDonald  
Mary Gould Moorhead  
Diane Quinn  
Paul Roeck  
David Strong  
Peter Vander Velde  
Anne Warnke *Clerk*  
Anne Winebrenner

## Deacons

Bill Allen  
Nancy Anderson  
Carol Bagan  
Carolyn Bennett  
Dorothy Chantler  
Mallory Ciarrocchi  
Emily Gilley  
Peg Gronau  
Nancy Hamming  
Jeff Hinch  
Cindy Johnson  
Dick Johnson  
Susan McDowell  
John McNicholas

Susan Milanak  
Jerry Mortensen *Elect*  
Tiffany Notz  
Martha Richter  
Gale Strenger Wayne  
*Co-moderator*  
Tricia Sweet  
*Co-moderator*  
Sherry Trenchard  
Bert Tucker  
Kimberly Tunney  
Tess Uihlein  
Scott Weston

## Staff

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Custodian



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